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mass of gas, to which the author has previously called attention, appear to be increased by these additional facts of observation.

J. H. MOORE.

NOTE ON THE NEBULAR DISK OF NOVA AQUILAE No. 3

Nova Aquilae, No. 3 was examined with the 36-inch telescope on the nights of June 4th, June 8th and July 7th. It was noted on the first night that the blue-green nebulous envelop or halo which was so conspicuous in 1920 had become very much fainter and apparently larger, but the seeing on this night and on June 8th was not good enough to permit accurate measures. On July 7th the observing conditions were very good and, the nebulous envelop, tho faint, was well defined (at the focus for the nebulum lines 8^{mm} outside of the normal stellar focus) and much larger than the out-of-focus star image. The diameters, north-south and east-west, were measured, the results being, respectively, 5".07 and 4".98. The disk appeared to be perfectly round and the star to be placed centrally within it.

ROBERT G. AITKEN.

THE APPARENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOVAE

It is well-known that the novae are concentrated toward the belt of the Milky Way, and it has sometimes been thought that the probability for the outburst of a nova in any given part of the sky is proportional to the star density in that area. If this were true we should expect to find novae more frequently in the bright star clouds of the Milky Way than elsewhere.

The galactic distribution of 45 objects considered to be *bona fide* galactic novae (the novae in spiral nebulae and in globular clusters are excluded) shows that this supposed law does not hold. Plots made on the basis of Pickering's diagram of the 18 hour region of the galaxy and Graff's curves for equal light intensity for the 6 hour region show that novae are not situated in the brightest regions of the Milky Way. They prefer places where the light intensity is low, as at the borders of the galaxy or of the so-called "coal-sacks." From Nort's diagram¹ of the light intensity and star density in the Milky Way it would seem that novae occur rather in the regions of low light intensity than in those where the star density is small.

¹*Recherches astronomiques de l'observatoire d' Utrecht VII.*